



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

survey results summary issued twice monthly by the  
USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office

Issue: 05-20 Released: October 24, 2005

## HIGHLIGHTS:

Hay Production  
Sugar Beet Production  
Canola Production  
Egg Production  
Cattle on Feed  
Milk Production  
Wheat Utilization  
Red Meat Production

### October 1, 2005 Montana All Hay, Sugar Beets, and Canola Production Forecast

Total production of **alfalfa hay** in Montana is estimated to be 4.59 million tons, up 43 percent from the previous year. Alfalfa hay yield rose 0.20 ton from the August forecast to 2.70 tons per acre. This would be a new record high for alfalfa yield with the previous record of 2.60 tons per acre set in 1981. Harvested area, at 1.70 million acres, remained unchanged from August, but is 300,000 acres more than 2004. **Other hay** yield was unchanged from August's forecast of 1.60 tons per acre, up 0.20 ton per acre from last year. Other hay production is expected to be 2.00 million tons, up 30 percent from 2004. Other hay harvested area is unchanged from August at 1.25 million acres, but is up 150,000 acres from 2004. **All hay** production is estimated at 6.59 million tons, up 38 percent from last year. All hay yield is estimated to be 2.23 tons per acre, up 0.33 ton per acre from last year. This would tie the previous record high all hay yield set in 1995.

Montana's **sugar beet** production is forecast at 1.05 million tons for 2005, the same as September's forecast, but down 7 percent from 2004. Forecasted yield, at 21.0 tons per acre, is unchanged from last month, but down 0.7 ton per acre from last year. Harvested acreage, at 50,000 acres, is unchanged from September, but down 2,100 acres from last year.

Montana **canola** producers expect to harvest 18,000 acres in 2005, compared with 15,000 in 2004. Yield is expected to be 1,400 pounds per acre, down 12 percent from last year. Production is expected to total 25.2 million pounds, compared with 23.9 million pounds last year.

For the **United States**, **alfalfa** and alfalfa mixtures production is forecast at 75.9 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast and up 1 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.43 tons per acre, up 0.09 ton from August but down 0.04 ton from 2004. Harvested area is forecast at 22.1 million acres, unchanged from August but up 2 percent from last year. U.S. **other hay** production is forecast at 76.9 million tons, up 1 percent from August but down 7 percent from 2004. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.94 tons, up 0.02 ton from August but down 0.11 ton from last year. Harvested area, at 39.6 million acres, is unchanged from August but down 2 percent from the previous year.

**Sugar beet** production in the U.S. for 2005 is forecast at 26.7 million tons, 2 percent above the September forecast but 11 percent below last year's production. The yield is forecast at 21.5 tons per acre, up 0.3 ton from September but 1.4 tons below 2004. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.24 million acres, virtually the same as last month but 5 percent below last year.

The first U.S. **canola** production forecast for 2005 is 1.50 billion pounds, up 12 percent from 2004. Area planted, at 1.15 million acres, is up 6 percent from the June estimate and up 33 percent from last year. Canola farmers expect to harvest 1.13 million acres, up 5 percent from June and up 36 percent from 2004. The October yield forecast, at 1,333 pounds per acre, is 285 pounds below last year's record high yield.

### U.S. September Egg Production Up Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.38 billion during September 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.31 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 59 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2005 averaged 342 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,155 eggs, up 1 percent from September 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1,

2005, totaled 343 million, down slightly from a year ago. The 343 million layers consisted of 286 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.46 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 2005, averaged 71.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from October 1, 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched during September 2005 totaled 33.8 million, down 8 percent from September 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 31.8 million on October 1, 2005, down 5 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 375,000 during September 2005, up 83 percent from September 2004.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during September 2005 totaled 770 million, down slightly from September 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 632 million on October 1, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.13 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during September 2005, down 8 percent from September 2004.

### Montana Agricultural Statistics 2005 Book Available Soon

The annual report contains state and county crop and livestock estimates, farm income, prices, farm numbers, Montana's rank among states, and other statistical data.

The Montana Agricultural Statistics 2005 book will be available in December in printed form or on our website at [www.nass.usda.gov/mt/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/). The price for the printed book is \$10.00. Those who supply survey information are not charged.

# October 1, 2005 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,900	2,100	1,630	2,050	41.0	45.0	66,830	92,250
Durum Wheat	Bu.	570	570	545	565	33.0	28.0	17,985	15,820
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,000	2,600	2,850	2,550	31.0	32.0	88,350	81,600
All Wheat	Bu.	5,470	5,270	5,025	5,165	34.5	36.7	173,165	189,670
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	70.0	60.0	15.0	15.0	143	4/	2,145	4/
Oats	Bu.	105	85	40.0	33.0	60.0	53.0	2,400	1,749
Barley	Bu.	1,000	950	830	710	59.0	56.0	48,970	39,760
Flaxseed	Bu.	20	55	19	53	18.0	4/	342	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	17.0	12.7	16.5	22.4	24.0	285	396
Dry Peas	Cwt.	68.0	135.0	63.0	125.0	20.1	4/	1,266	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	78.0	170.0	72.0	155.0	14.0	4/	1,008	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	12.0	19.0	8.0	13.0	9.0	4/	72	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	53.7	51.2	52.1	50.0	21.7	21.0	1,131	1,050
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	11.0	10.6	10.9	335.0	3/	3,551	3/
Canola	Lbs.	15.0	19.0	15.0	18.0	1,590	1,400	23,850	25,200
Safflower	Lbs.	33.5	39.0	31.0	37.0	680	4/	21,080	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,700	2.30	2.70	3,220	4,590
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,100	1,250	1.40	1.60	1,540	2,000
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,950	1.90	2.23	4,760	6,590
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,350	40,320	34,462	33,680	43.5	44.4	1,499,434	1,493,769
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,561	2,735	2,363	2,691	38.0	37.2	89,893	100,045
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,763	14,036	13,174	13,609	43.2	37.1	568,918	504,456
All Wheat	Bu.	59,674	57,091	49,999	49,980	43.2	42.0	2,158,245	2,098,270
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,930	81,642	73,632	74,333	148.9	4/	10,923,099	4/
Oats	Bu.	4,085	4,240	1,787	1,823	64.7	63.1	115,695	115,002
Barley	Bu.	4,527	3,922	4,021	3,276	69.6	64.8	279,743	212,196
Flaxseed	Bu.	523	945	516	931	20.3	4/	10,471	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,354.3	1,659.8	1,219.3	1,522.1	14.6	17.2	17,799	26,109
Dry Peas	Cwt.	530.0	804.0	507.8	772.0	21.6	4/	10,831	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	345.0	450.0	322.0	430.0	12.7	4/	4,084	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	30.5	37.5	21.5	26.5	12.7	4/	272	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,345.9	1,284.6	1,306.9	1,243.3	22.9	21.5	29,956	26,746
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,039.7	970.4	1,022.8	955.7	398	3/	410,023	3/
Canola	Lbs.	865	1,153	828	1,125	1,618	1,333	1,339,530	1,499,300
Safflower	Lbs.	175.0	185.0	159.0	173.0	1,105	4/	175,765	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	21,707	22,118	3.47	3.43	75,383	75,940
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.94	82,391	76,931
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,916	61,723	2.55	2.48	157,774	152,871

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available November 11, 2005. 4/ Forecast available January 12, 2006.

-- Not published.

## U.S. Cattle on Feed Down Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.5 million head on October 1, 2005. The inventory was slightly below October 1, 2004 but up 3 percent from October 1, 2003.

The inventory included 6.87 million steers and steer calves, up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 66 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.55 million head, down 11 percent from 2004.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.36 million, 1percent below 2004 and 5 percent below 2003. Net placements were 2.30 million head.

During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 565,000, 600-699 pounds were 505,000, 700-799 pounds were 550,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 735,000. Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.82 million, 1 percent above 2004 but 11 percent below 2003. Other disappearance totaled 57,000 during September, 7 percent below 2004 and 10 percent below 2003.

## September U.S. Milk Production Up 4.9 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during September 2005 totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 4.9 percent from September 2004. August revised production, at 13.6 billion pounds, was up 4.8 percent from August 2004. The August revision represented an increase of

22 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,597 pounds for September, 64 pounds above September 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 54,000 head more than September 2004, and 1,000 head more than August 2005.

Milk production in the U.S. during the July-September quarter totaled 44.0 billion pounds, up 4.2 percent from the July-September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.05 million head, 27,000 head more than the same period last year.

## Wheat Utilization

The June 2004 - May 2005 total wheat supply was 213.6 million bushels, 16 percent more than the previous year. Total supply is calculated by adding 2004 all wheat production to June 2004 all wheat stocks. Total disposition during June 2004 - May 2005 was 162.3 million bushels, 13 percent more than the quantity marketed during the previous year. Ending stocks of 51.3 million bushels on June 1, 2005 was 27 percent higher than the previous year. Wheat utilization reports are assembled

from Grain Movement Reports and Grain Market News data by the USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office. Funding was provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee

Montana shipped 133.3 million bushels out of state during June 2004 - May 2005, 3 percent more than moved during the same period the prior year. Shipments to the Pacific Northwest totaled 90.8 million bushels, 8 percent more than the 2003 - 2004 season, and accounted for 73 percent

of the wheat shipped out of state. Pacific Northwest destinations accounted for 78.2 million bushels, while Pacific Northwest processing destinations accounted for 12.6 million bushels.

Inspected exports of hard red winter, hard red spring, hard white, and durum wheat from Pacific ports were 239.3 million bushels, up 16 percent from the previous year. Montana's recorded share of those exports was 33 percent, the same as the previous year

## All Wheat Supply and Disposition By Marketing Year, Montana, 2000-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004/2003
	Million Bushels					Percent
SUPPLY						
Beginning Stocks 1/	60.9	51.4	57.3	41.6	40.4	97
Production	135.2	96.6	110.7	142.3	173.2	122
Total Supply	196.1	148.0	168.0	183.9	213.6	116
DISPOSITION						
Recorded movement out of state 2/	125.3	67.7	114.7	120.5	124.1	103
Used for seed in Montana	5.8	6.3	5.8	5.9	5.6	95
Residual 3/	13.6	16.7	5.9	17.1	32.6	191
Total Disposition	144.7	90.7	126.4	143.5	162.3	113
Pacific Northwest exports as a percent of total disposition	57%	41%	53%	48%	48%	
Ending Stocks 1/	51.4	57.3	41.6	40.4	51.3	127

1/ June 1 stocks, All Positions. 2/ Montana Wheat Movement Project

3/ Used for flour, used for livestock feed, handling losses, and other unaccounted disappearance.

## All Wheat Recorded Movement by Destination & Marketing Years, Montana, 2000-2004

ITEM	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004/2003
	Million Bushels					Percent
All Destinations	144.2	83.7	130.6	129.2	133.3	103
Out of Montana	125.3	67.7	114.7	120.5	124.1	103
Pacific Northwest Destinations	92.6	44.8	80.9	84.3	90.8	108
Export Destinations	81.8	37.3	67.0	68.7	78.2	114
Export Facilities	76.0	34.9	64.7	65.8	76.7	117
Columbia/Snake River Barge System	5.8	2.4	2.3	2.9	1.5	52
Processing Destinations	10.8	7.5	13.9	15.6	12.6	81
Interior Oregon & Washington Facilities	5.3	2.2	10.7	10.9	9.1	83
Mills	5.5	5.3	3.2	4.7	3.5	74
Non-Pacific Northwest Destinations	32.7	22.9	33.8	36.2	33.3	92
Montana Destinations	18.9	16.0	15.9	8.7	9.2	106
Inspected exports of Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter, Hard White, and Durum - Pacific ports 1/	204.4	195.5	200.2	205.5	239.3	116
Montana recorded exports as percent of total Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter, Hard White and Durum exports from Pacific ports	40%	19%	33%	33%	33%	

1/ California, Oregon, and Washington ports.

PLEASE NOTE: Funding for this data was provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

## September 2005 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during September 2005, up 5 percent from last year, but down 11 percent from the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 1,164 from the previous year.

During September there were 1,600 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 230 pounds, rose 8 pounds from last year. September sheep slaughter in the state totaled 500 head, 100 head fewer than September 2004. The average live weight increased 9 pounds to 125 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in September, up 1 percent from the 3.91 billion pounds produced in September 2004. Beef production, at 2.16 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.78 million head, up 1 percent from September 2004. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.2 million pounds, 2 percent above September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 60,700 head, down 10 percent from September 2004. The average live weight was 43 pounds above last year, at 363 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.74 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.87

million head, 1 percent below September 2004. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 265 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.6 million pounds, was down 4 percent from September 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 231,300 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up 2 pounds from September a year ago.

January to September 2005 commercial red meat production was 33.9 billion pounds, up slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up slightly from last year, veal was down 7 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

### COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Lentil Production
2005 Crop Year Summary	Potato Production
Austrian Winter Pea Production	Sugar Beet Production
Dry Beans Production	
Dry Edible Pea Production	

Peggy Stringer, Director  
John Hilton, Deputy Director  
Wendy Bruski, Editor  
10 W. 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, Montana 59626  
406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612  
[www.nass.usda.gov/mt/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/)    [nass-mt@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-mt@nass.usda.gov)